

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S

1. FOLLOWING ARE TEXT OF AP REPORT WEDNESDAY (MAY 24)
ON ISRAELI FONMIN DAYAN'S REMARKS DURING KNESSET DEBATE
ON SAME DAY, AND RESPONSES BEING GIVEN BY DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN TO PRESS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REPORT. POST
SHOULD BRING BOTH THE REPORT AND OUR RESPONSES TO THE
ATTENTION OF GOE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF AP REPORT:
JERUSALEM (AP) -- FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN DISCLOSED
TODAY THAT EGYPT HAS REPLIED TO ISRAELI PROPOSALS FOR RE-
STARTING STALLED PEACE TALKS, BUT HE CLAIMED WASHINGTON
REJECTED CAIRO'S ANSWERS AS INADEQUATE.

--SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT, DAYAN SAID ISRAEL WAS GIVEN A
U.S. MEMORANDUM ON THE EGYPTIAN POSITION ON FRIDAY.

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--HE SPOKE AFTER PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN'S RULING
COALITION GOVERNMENT DEFEATED A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION BY
A VOTE OF 66-32 WITH ONE ABSTENTION. THE MOTION WAS RAISED
BY A SMALL LEFTIST PARTY AND IT FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC ISSUES,

BUT ALSO CONDEMNED BEGIN'S FOREIGN POLICY FOR DELAYING

PEACE.

--THE EGYPTIAN REPLY WAS THE LATEST MOVE IN U.S.-MEDIATED EFFORTS TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS

THAT DEVELOPMENT (SIC) LAST JANUARY WHEN THE TWO SIDES FAILED TO AGREE ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE FUTURE TALKS.

--EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT LAUNCHED THE PEACE DRIVE WITH HIS HISTORIC JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM LAST NOVEMBER.

--LAST MONTH, DAYAN PROPOSED SHELIVING THE DECLARATION AND MOVING ON TO PRIMARY ISSUES OF A PEACE TREATY. HE SAID HE SUBMITTED A LIST OF QUESTIONS TO CAIRO AND ASKED SADAT IF HE WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT OR SIGN A SEPARATE ACCORD WITH ISRAEL.

--DAYAN DECLINED TO DISCUSS EITHER THE QUESTIONS OR THE EGYPTIAN REPLIES. BUT HE SAID THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FOUND THE EGYPTIAN DOCUMENT "SO IMPOSSIBLE THAT THEY--TO PUT IT DIPLOMATICALLY--RETURNED THEM TO THEIR AUTHORS." HE SAID IT WAS RETURNED WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT "NOT EVEN THE AMERICANS WOULD SUGGEST TO ISRAEL THAT IT ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS FOR A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS."

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--THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT.

--WITHOUT REFERRING DIRECTLY TO THE REPLIES, DAYAN SAID SADAT'S POSITION REMAINED "AS EXTREME AS POSSIBLE," DEMANDING TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPTURED ARAB LANDS AND CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. ISRAEL REJECTS BOTH DEMANDS.

--"THE POSITION OF SADAT TODAY IS THAT HE IS NOT WILLING TO SIGN A SEPARATE AGREEMENT OVER SINAI. THAT IS HIS STAND UNTIL THIS MOMENT," DAYAN SAID.

--HE SAID THE CABINET WOULD DISCUSS THE CAIRO REPLIES (IN) ITS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING SUNDAY AND FOLLOW UP WITH DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON PEACE POLICY. (END TEXT)

3. (BEGIN TEXT OF Q'S AND A'S OF DEPARTMENT RESPONSES):

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT EGYPT HAS PROVIDED THE UNITED STATES WITH PROPOSALS ABOUT THE WEST BANK AND GAZA NEGOTIATIONS, IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI QUESTIONS, AND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO TRANSMIT THEM TO ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY

WERE SO BAD?

A. -- WE HAVE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS AND ARE RATHER
PUZZLED BY THEM.

-- WE HAVE CONVEYED NO "DOCUMENT" TO ISRAEL AS SUGGESTED
IN THE REPORTS OF THE MAY 19 MEETING BETWEEN OUR AMBASSA-
DOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN.

-- THE STATUS OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS IS AS
GIVEN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT LAST FRIDAY: WE ARE WAITING
FOR ANSWERS FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET ASKED OF FOREIGN
MINISTER DAYAN AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN BY SECRETARY
VANCE, AND WE ALSO CONTINUE IN CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT ABOUT ANY IDEAS HE MAY HAVE FOR MOVING FORWARD THE
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NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND
GAZA. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME IDEAS FROM THE EGYPTIANS AND
ARE CONTINUING OUR EXCHANGE WITH THEM IN THIS RESPECT.
WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED BY ISRAEL TO CONVEY CERTAIN
QUESTIONS TO EGYPT.

-- WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING EACH SIDE GENERALLY INFORMED OF
THE VIEWS AND THE QUESTIONS OF THE OTHER AS WE UNDERSTAND
THEM. AT NO TIME HAVE WE DECLINED TO TRANSMIT ANYTHING
TO ONE SIDE WHICH THE OTHER HAS ASKED US TO CONVEY.

-- BEYOND THAT, IT SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO GO INTO
THE SPECIFICS OF THESE EXCHANGES. OUR ROLE AS MIDDLEMAN
DEPENDS UPON THE CONFIDENCE BOTH SIDES HAVE IN US.

(END TEXT)

CHRISTOPHER

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